

DRIEHAUS FLOOD MAP FAIRNESS MEASURE APPROVED BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Provisions Would Protect Homeowners and Communities Incorrectly Added to Flood Zones in New FEMA Maps

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a measure he sponsored that would protect homeowners who have been incorrectly added to the flood zone. The provision would authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse property owners and communities acting on their behalf for associated costs if they successfully petition for the exclusion of their properties from a flood zone.

Representative Driehaus's measure was included over Republican objection as an amendment to the Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act, which passed in the House today by a vote of 329-90. The amendment included provisions similar to the [Fairness in Flood Mapping Act](#), which Rep. Driehaus introduced earlier this week.

"If FEMA incorrectly places properties in a flood zone, FEMA should bear the costs associated with amending their maps. This is a real concern for homeowners in Harrison, Ohio and in communities across the country. My amendment ensures fairness for homeowners as new FEMA flood maps go into effect, and I applaud my colleagues for recognizing the importance of this measure," said Rep. Driehaus.

Earlier today, [Rep. Driehaus spoke on the House floor in support of his measure](#).

Representative Driehaus's amendment would require the Administrator of FEMA to reimburse property owners and communities for the costs incurred in order to file for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) if they are or were ultimately successful in petitioning the exclusion of their property from a flood zone between Fiscal Year 2007 and the present. Under current law, FEMA is authorized to reimburse for engineering and surveying expenses incurred prior to the enactment of a new flood map. However, there is no process for individuals to obtain reimbursements for petitions following the enactment of a flood map.

More than 60,000 properties throughout the United States have been removed from flood zones between 2005 and 2009 as a result of the LOMA process, yet have never been reimbursed.

The Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act would extend the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for five years and reform the program by expanding coverage and providing homeowners with more control over their insurance. It raises maximum coverage limits for the first time since 1994, providing a stronger safety net for families threatened by flooding. The bill also provides families with greater flexibility and options, by allowing them to pay for flood insurance in installments, creating the office of the Flood Insurance Advocate to protect and assist policyholders, and delaying the mandatory requirement to purchase insurance for five years in areas only recently declared as a flood zone.

###